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Das Münchener Bäckergewerbe (Münchener Volkswirtschaftliche Studien. Siebentes Stück). By DR. PHILIPP ARNOLD. Stuttgart: J. G. Cotta'sche Buchhandlung, 1895. 8vo. pp. viii + 100.

As THE subtitle of this study indicates, it was the author's purpose to describe the technical, economic, and social conditions which at present obtain in the baking industry of Munich. Previous investigations have neglected for the most part the economic and technical aspects of the industry, in spite of the fact, as the author believes, that social conditions can be fully explained only by reference to economic; and his purpose is therefore to give due prominence to all classes of facts in his discussion of the subject. In this matter of due proportion it should be said that he has been fully successful.

The opening chapter is occupied with a description of the conditions of the industry under the restrictions of the old guild system, from which the reforms of Montgelas mark the first advance. This investigation the author felt to be necessary to correct the impression current among the hand workers of the present that these times were the golden days of industrial peace and that now, because industrial freedom has displaced successively the regulations of the guilds and the system of concessions, "quarrels between masters and men are unceasing, and the product grows poorer and poorer each year with the increasing competition of the unskillful and the dishonest." The fact that the author's task was not more difficult may excuse the inadequacy of certain portions of this chapter, in particular the one in which the transition movement from the early to the present system is traced. Little account of this movement is given further than an enumeration of the successive legislative acts by which restrictions of various kinds were swept away.

The second of the six chapters describes the present organization of the industry in Munich as compared with its forms in Bavaria as a whole and in the empire. Five statistical tables are presented from which it appears that the industry is predominantly carried on upon a small scale. Bakeries with from one to five assistants are by far the most numerous not only in Munich but generally. In 1892 out of the 428 establishments in the city 366 were of this class. In bakeries of all classes, excepting the smallest, machinery, chiefly for kneading, is gradually making its way. The fourth of the tables comparing the

development of the industry in 1875 with the stage reached in 1882 shows that a twofold process of change is going on. "In the first place the industry has on the average increased in scope, while, at the same time, it should be kept in mind that large production had developed at a more rapid rate than small. Secondly, a transition to modern methods of production," which although "extremely slow, is unmistakable," "is noticeable in the application of motors and machinery to processes both upon a large and upon a small scale."

The following chapter sets forth the economic causes and effects of the movement which this statistical study has revealed, without, however, disclosing the operation of any new principle or furnishing illustration of any saving through the use of better methods, not already perfectly familiar and perhaps more conspicuously visible in other branches of industry. The chapter is possibly useful in a different way to the student of economics, as it serves to remind him of the obvious truth, which the author briefly mentions in quite another connection, that the advantages to be derived from the use of machinery are conditioned always by the more or less strong individual character of the industry concerned. The economist, however, will learn little from the experience of the Munich bakeries except by way of the additional illustration of principles which have long been sufficiently certain and distinct.

Of far greater interest is the investigation, in the fifth chapter, of the social, economic and hygienic conditions of the workers in the baking establishments. After showing that wages are higher and hours of work shorter in the large establishments than in the small the author presents a discussion of the general condition of the laborers in the industry as a whole. While the death rate among bakers is exceptionally low, it is pointed out that this fact is significant rather of the undesirability of the occupation than otherwise. By far the greater proportion of bakers in Bavaria are between the ages of fifteen and forty, the number in 1882 being 11,376 or about 87 per cent. of the total. Of this number furthermore 5483 were between the ages of fifteen and twenty. These facts, taken together with the low death rate, clearly indicate that the occupation is one which men desire to forsake as soon as they are able to do so. For this disposition the author finds abundant reason in the difficulty of the work, especially the kneading, in the necessity for conducting the process at night with the obvious hardships which follow from this,

and in the exposure to sicknesses of various kinds, pulmonary and other, which the work entails. Many of these evils will, however, be abated by the progressive introduction of machinery and the system of shifts which will be possible with large production.

Dr. Arnold has apparently done his work in a thorough and painstaking manner though the style in many places is inexcusably crude. It does not appear, however, that from the strictly economic point of view the study is of great value. The industry which is discussed offers at best a not very forcible exemplification of very elementary and commonplace principles. To the student of the general conditions of labor it will be more welcome.

H. W. STUART.

Annals of the British Peasantry. By RUSSELL M. GARNIER. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895. 8vo. pp. xvi + 460.

CERTAINLY in this latest volume by the author of the valuable *History of the English Landed Interest* the "short and simple annals of the poor" have exceeded the circumscribed limits poetically set for them. Short and simple they are no longer for Mr. Garnier has performed his task with a scholarly thoroughness which, judging from his copious footnotes and careful bibliography, seems to have allowed no spring of information to run to waste. Practically, although possibly not consciously, the aim of the book is to lead us to a better understanding of the nature and position of the British agricultural laborer at the present day, resting as they do on a historic basis, and to a saner estimate of what may be done both for and by him through the agency of the schemes for social amelioration which are now so numerous.

Strictly speaking, the *Annals* takes up the history of the British agriculturist from the period of the statutes *Extenta Manerii* and *Quia Emptores* (1280-1290). Before coming to this period, however, there are four chapters of an introductory character in which the origin of the employer and the laborer together with the essentials of the land régime introduced by the Conquest are discussed in an especially scholarly way. The patriarchal form of government of the laborers which had been consolidated by the two statutes already mentioned and the legislation accompanying them did not last long. The mutual